



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2005

No. 146

Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEFF SESSIONS, a Senator from the State of Alabama.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, give us today Your strength for our weakness. We need Your power for our helplessness. We need Your wisdom for our ignorance. We need Your purity for our sins. We need Your love for our indifference. We need Your presence for our loneliness.

Empower our Senators to begin to solve the problems that beset our Nation. Grant that at every decision crossroad they will receive the direction of Your spirit.

Remind us all that we need not face life alone, for You have promised to always be with us.

And, Lord, comfort those whose lives have been devastated by the Indiana tornado.

You are our strength for today and our hope for tomorrow.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEFF SESSIONS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 7, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF SESSIONS, a Senator from the State of Alabama, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SESSIONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this afternoon, we will have a period for the transaction of morning business until 2 p.m. At 2 p.m. today, we will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. On Friday, we turned to the Defense bill under the provisions of the earlier consent agreement. We had six amendments offered, with one of those being adopted by voice vote. We expect further amendments and debate during today's session and, as we announced Friday, we will vote at 5:30 p.m. in relation to a Defense authorization amendment. The chairman and ranking member will be here throughout the afternoon today, and we will alert all Senators when that 5:30 p.m. rollcall vote is locked in. We expect to finish the Defense authorization bill on Tuesday or possibly Wednesday of this week, with rollcall votes each day.

This week, we will also consider any of the available appropriations conference reports. The conference report to accompany the Foreign Operations bill is at the desk, and we hope to schedule that measure either today or tomorrow. We look forward to another full week of business before completing our work prior to Thanksgiving.

SUDAN VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, later this afternoon, I have the honor of hosting Sudan's First Vice President, Salva Kiir, in the U.S. Capitol. I have come to the floor many times to speak on Sudan, having gone to that country just about every year for the last 7 or 8 years, having spent most of that time in southern Sudan. I look forward to being with and hosting Salva Kiir, who is a founding member of the SPLM, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

In January of this year, the SPLM and the Sudanese Government in Khartoum signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, bringing an end to 21 years of a brutal civil war, a civil war that has destroyed much of that country, especially in the south.

When I first started going to Sudan, literally there was no hospital in southern Sudan, and the one hospital that was eventually reopened was a hospital that had been closed about 18 years previously, with landmines placed all around that hospital. It destroyed health care there, obviously, but it had destroyed commerce, any touch of humanity, and had driven the entire southern population out of villages, dispersing them, with 5 million people displaced and about 2 million people who died in that civil war.

In June of this year, longtime SPLM chairman and a very close friend of mine, Dr. John Garang, went back to Khartoum for the first time in 21 years. It was a momentous time. At that time, he was sworn in as First Vice President of Sudan. Up until that time,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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